

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended)      A method of ~~billing subscribers~~ managing subscriber billing in a telecommunication network, wherein each subscriber has billing accounts that are charged when services of the telecommunication network are used, the method comprising:

forming ~~at least one~~ a subscriber billing group, the subscriber billing group having at least two subscribers comprising two or more subscriber billing accounts;

assigning to each subscriber of the subscriber billing group ~~a billing account in a billing database~~ an identification associated with at least one type of access right; and

~~determining at least one subscriber in each group as a master subscriber, the master subscriber having access rights to the billing database and carrying out predetermined procedures in and or between the accounts of the subscriber billing group.~~

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2. (Currently Amended)      A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ a master subscriber has ~~access rights to~~ the right to access the billing ~~database~~ group through the telecommunication network.

3. (Currently Amended)      A method as claimed in claim ~~1~~ 2, wherein the master subscriber carries out balance transfers between the billing accounts within the group.

4. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 ~~2~~, wherein ~~each~~ the billing account has a limited balance, and the master subscriber changes the balance limit or balance of the billing account.

5. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein ~~each~~ the billing account is a prepayment account and/or an account equipped with a credit limit.

6. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the credit limit is obtained from the balance of the master subscriber.

7. (Currently Amended) A system for ~~billing a plurality of telecommunication network subscribers~~ managing billing accounts of several subscribers, wherein each subscriber has ~~a billing accounts account in a billing database that are~~ is charged when services of a telecommunication network are used, the system comprising:

~~a subscriber database having at least one subscriber billing group including at least two subscribers, each subscriber having a billing account in the billing database, and at least one subscriber in each group is a master subscriber~~

one or more subscriber billing groups, wherein each subscriber billing group comprising two or more subscriber billing accounts,

~~wherein the master subscriber having access rights to the billing database and~~ carries access right indicators, each indicating a specific right to manage accounts of the subscriber billing group and to carry out predetermined procedures in and or between the accounts of the subscriber billing group, and

an identification for each subscriber, wherein the identification is associated with at least one access right indicator; and

~~a telecommunication server connected to the subscriber database, the master subscriber connecting through the telecommunication network to the server to carry out data processing means for carrying out the account managing and the predetermined procedures in the billing database.~~

8. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 7, ~~wherein the master subscriber has access rights~~ further comprising means for providing access for a master subscriber to the billing ~~database group~~ through the telecommunication network.

9. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the account managing and the predetermined procedures ~~include balance transfers~~ comprise a balance transfer between the billing accounts within ~~each~~ the group.

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10. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 7, wherein ~~each~~ the billing account has a limited balance, and the account managing and the predetermined procedures ~~include~~ comprise changing the balance limit or balance of the billing account.

11. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the billing account is a prepayment account and/or an account equipped with a credit limit.

12. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 11, ~~wherein the credit limit is obtained~~ further comprising means for obtaining the credit limit from the balance of ~~the a master subscriber to the billing database.~~

13. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 7 8, wherein the master subscriber ~~accesses~~ has access to the a telecommunication service by making a facility call to a predetermined service number.

14. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 13, wherein ~~the a~~ telecommunication server to which the master subscriber connects ~~includes~~ is an automatic answering apparatus.

15. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 7 8, wherein ~~the a~~ telecommunication server to which the master subscriber connects is a World Wide Web (WWW) server.

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~~16. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 7 8, wherein the a~~  
telecommunication server to which the master subscriber connects is a Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) server.

17. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 7 8, wherein ~~the a~~ telecommunication server to which the master subscriber connects is a short message centre or a short message server.

18. (New) A system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising forming the subscriber billing group into a billing database.

19. (New) A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the master subscriber has the right to access the billing database through the telecommunication network.

20. (New) A network element for managing billing accounts with respect to several subscribers, the network element comprising:

at least one subscriber billing group, the billing group including two or more subscriber billing accounts,

wherein the network element is configured to:

recognize a master subscriber that has the right to access the billing group; and

allow the master subscriber to carry out predetermined procedures to the accounts of the subscriber billing group.